

Application No.: 10/554,375
Amdt. Dated: April 5, 2007
Reply to Office Action Dated: December 5, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A wound dressing comprising a therapeutic agent and a matrix comprising polymers joined by cross-linkages which cross-linkages comprise oligopeptidic sequences which are cleavable by a kallikrein such that the rate of release of the therapeutic agent increases in the presence of the kallikrein protease, wherein the oligopeptidic sequence comprises -Phe-Arg-Ser-Ser-Arg-Gln- or Met-Ile-Ser-Leu-Met-Lys-Arg-Pro-Gln-.

Claim 2 (Original): A wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the polymers themselves are not degraded by the kallikrein or other factors that may be present in the wound environment.

Claim 3 (Previously presented) A wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a synthetic polymer.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A wound dressing according to claim 3, wherein the polymer is a polymer of N-(2-hydroxypropyl) methacrylamide (HPMA).

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A wound dressing according to claim [[6]]1, wherein the therapeutic agent is an antimicrobial agent, a pain relieving agent, an antiseptic, an analgesic, a local anaesthetic, or a kallikrein inhibitor.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is incorporated within the matrix.

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Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A wound dressing according to claim 8, wherein the dressing further comprises a wound contacting layer of the dressing may comprise wherein the wound contacting layer comprises the matrix within which the therapeutic agent is incorporated.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A wound dressing according to claim 8, wherein the dressing comprises a liquid permeable wound contacting layer, an intermediate layer comprising the matrix within which the therapeutic agent is incorporated and an outer, liquid-impervious backing layer.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A wound dressing according to claim 7, wherein the dressing comprises a barrier layer which comprises the matrix, the barrier layer being for initially separating the therapeutic agent in the wound dressing from wound fluid when in use.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A wound dressing according to claim 11, wherein the barrier layer comprises an apertured sheet having a composition comprising the cross-linked polymers applied thereto in occlusive fashion.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A wound dressing according to claim 11, wherein a layer of the therapeutic substance is provided behind the barrier layer.

Claim 14 (Original): A wound dressing according to claim 13, wherein an absorbent layer is provided behind the barrier layer and the therapeutic substance is dispersed in the absorbent layer.

Claim 15 (Original): A wound dressing according to claim 14, wherein the barrier layer substantially encapsulates the therapeutic substance.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): A wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the wound dressing comprises an absorbent layer and/or a backing layer.

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Claim 17 (New) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the oligopeptidic sequence consists of -Phe-Arg-Ser-Ser-Arg-Gln- or Met-Ile-Ser-Leu-Met-Lys-Arg-Pro-Gln-.